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CLAIMS

1.   A method for determining whether a compound is capable of inhibiting or disrupting an interaction between a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide said method comprising:

5   (a)   (i)   incubating said first polypeptide with said second polypeptide under conditions which allow the first polypeptide to bind to the second polypeptide to form a complex; and bringing the complex thus formed into contact with a candidate compound; or

(ii)   incubating said first polypeptide with said second polypeptide in the

10   presence of a candidate compound under conditions which would allow the first polypeptide to bind to the second polypeptide in the absence of the candidate compound; and

(b)   determining if said candidate compound inhibits or disrupts binding of the first polypeptide to the second polypeptide;

15 wherein said first polypeptide comprises a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and said second polypeptide comprises a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 consists essentially of the sequence shown in

20 SEQ ID NO. 10.

3.   A method according to claim 1 of 2 wherein said candidate compound is a polypeptide comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

4.   A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said first polypeptide

25 and/or said second polypeptide is a viral polypeptide.

5.   A method according to claim 4 wherein said viral polypeptide is a human papillomavirus (HPV) polypeptide.

6.   A method according to claim 5 wherein said HPV polypeptide is E6.

7.   A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein said

30 first polypeptide and/or said second polypeptide is a polypeptide found in eukaryotic

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cells.

8.   A method according to claim 7 wherein said eukaryotic polypeptide is selected from transcription factors and cell cycle regulatory proteins.

9.   A method according to claim 7 or 8 wherein said eukaryotic

5   polypeptide is selected from Mdm-2, p53, E2F, YY1, CBP, p300, MyoD and TFIIB.

10.   A method for determining whether a compound is capable of inhibiting or disrupting an interaction between a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide said method comprising:

(a)   (i)   incubating said first polypeptide with said second polypeptide

10   under conditions which allow the first polypeptide to bind with the second polypeptide to form a complex; and bringing the complex thus formed into contact with a candidate compound; or

(ii)   incubating said first polypeptide with said second polypeptide in the

15   presence of a candidate compound under conditions which would allow the first polypeptide to bind the second polypeptide in the absence of the candidate compound; and

(b)   determining if said candidate compound inhibits or disrupts binding of the first polypeptide to the second polypeptide;

20   wherein said first polypeptide comprises a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and said second polypeptide is a human papillomavirus (HPV) polypeptide.

11.   A method according to claim 10 wherein said HPV polypeptide is E6.

12.   A compound identified by a method according to any one of the preceding claims.

25   13.   Use of a compound in a method of disrupting an interaction between a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said compound is a polypeptide comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 said first polypeptide comprises a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or said second polypeptide comprises a sequence

30   which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

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14.   Use of a compound in an *in vitro* method of disrupting an interaction between a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said compound is a polypeptide comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1, said first polypeptide

5   comprises a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or said second polypeptide comprises a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

15.   Use of a compound in the manufacture of a medicament for use in a method of disrupting an interaction between a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said compound is a polypeptide comprising a sequence

10   according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1, said first polypeptide comprises a sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1 and/or said second polypeptide comprises a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1.

16.   Use according to any one of claims 13 to 15 wherein said sequence

15   which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 is as defined in claim 2.

17.   Use according to any one of claims 13 to 16 wherein said first polypeptide and/or said second polypeptide are as defined in any one of claims 4 to 9.

18.   Use according to any one of claims 13 to 17 wherein the disruption of

20   said interaction inhibits viral transcription.

19.   Use according to any one of claims 13 to 18 wherein the disruption of said interaction inhibits cell cycle progression in mammalian cells.

20.   Use according to claim 19 wherein said mammalian cell is a cancer cell.

25   21.   A compound for use in a method of disrupting an interaction between a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said compound is a polypeptide comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1, said first polypeptide comprises a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and said second polypeptide

30   comprises a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

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22. A compound according to claim 21 wherein said sequence which can bind SEQ ID NO.1 is as defined in claim 2.

23. A compound according to claim 21 or 22 wherein said first polypeptide and/or said second polypeptide are as defined in any one claims 4 to 9.

5   24. A compound according to any one of claims 21 to 23 wherein the disruption of said interaction inhibits viral transcription.

25. A compound according to any one of claims 21 to 23 wherein the disruption of said interaction inhibits cell cycle progression in mammalian cells.

26. A compound according to claim 25 wherein said mammalian cell is a

10   cancer cell.

27. A method for identifying a compound which interacts with a polypeptide comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1, which method comprises:

(a)   incubating a candidate compound with a polypeptide comprising a sequence

15   according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 under suitable conditions; and

(b)   determining if said candidate compound interacts with said polypeptide comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 and/or a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

20   28. A method according to claim 27 wherein said compound is a polypeptide.

29. A method according to claim 27 or 28 wherein said sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1 is as defined in claim 2.

30. A purified polypeptide consisting essentially of a sequence according

25   to SEQ ID NO.1.

31. A purified polypeptide consisting essentially of a sequence which can bind a sequence according to SEQ ID NO.1.

32. A purified polypeptide according to claim 31 which consists essentially of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO.10.

30   33. A polynucleotide molecule comprising a coding region encoding a

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polypeptide according to claim 30, 31 or 32.

34.   A polynucleotide according to claim 33 further comprising an additional coding region linked to, and in frame with, the coding region encoding a polypeptide according to claim 30, 31 or 32.

5   35.   A nucleic acid vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 33 or 34.

add B'

add ε5⟩

add ε6⟩